

Summary of Freshwater Fishing Laws

2006 REGULATIONS

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details.
All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities.

Licenses And Stamps

Persons 16 and over must have a valid license to fish the fresh waters of New Jersey with a handline, rod and line or bow and arrow. This includes privately owned lakes and other waters.

- For residents 70 and over, a driver's license or other acceptable proof of age containing date of birth and physical description will serve as the actual fishing license.
- No person between the ages of 16 and 69, inclusive, shall take, attempt to take, possess or kill trout without a valid fishing license and trout stamp. For age 70 and over, no trout stamp is required.
- Resident and non-resident fishing licenses may be purchased through the mail, online at or at license agents such as sporting good stores and some county or municipal clerks. Visit our Web site for details, or call (609)292-2965. [See page 44 for new license system developments.](#)
- Licenses and trout stamps are valid from date of purchase through Dec. 31.
- A person must reside within the state for at least six months to obtain a resident license.
- A fishing license must be worn in a conspicuous place on the outer clothing.
- Farmers and immediate family members who live on the farm do not need a license to fish on their own farm, but must obey all fishing regulations.

Anyone convicted of a second fish or wildlife violation in this or another state within a period of five years will have his or her New Jersey licenses revoked for two years.

Replacement Of Lost Licenses

Duplicate fishing licenses are issued at all Fish and Wildlife regional offices, Pequest Natural Resource Education Center and the Trenton office. Each licensee is provided with

a license and a receipt. Be sure to keep the receipt separate from the license; if the actual license is lost, take the receipt to any of the listed offices for a \$2 replacement. Stamps cannot be replaced. If the receipt is lost, return to the location from which the license was purchased to complete a form documenting the original sale. This form may be mailed or brought to one of the Fish and Wildlife offices listed above for a replacement.

Special Licenses

Servicemen and Servicewomen

A person who is on active duty in the armed services of the United States is entitled to fish with a resident license.

National Guard Members

Eligible National Guard personnel are entitled to free licenses, permits, and stamps. Further information can be obtained by writing to: NJ Department of Military/Veteran Affairs, 101 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

Disabled Veterans

Free licenses, permits, and stamps are available for resident disabled veterans.

For the purpose of this program, the legislation defines Disabled Veterans as: "Any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been declared by the Department of Veterans Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability of any degree."

Documentation of current benefits for a service-connected disability and proof of honorable discharge (such as a copy of your DD-214, VA card or monthly check stub) must be

presented to obtain a free disabled veteran license.

Disabled Veteran fishing licenses are available at Fish and Wildlife's Trenton office, as well as regional offices and Pequest. This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. For questions, call (609) 292-2965.

For the Blind

Residents afflicted with total blindness may obtain a free license from Fish and Wildlife's Trenton office.

General Fishing Regulations

The season, size and creel limits for freshwater species apply to all waters of the state, including tidal waters.

- Fish may be taken only in the manner known as angling with handline or with rod and line, or as otherwise allowed by law.
- Only one daily creel of any fish species may be in possession. Additional fish may be caught once the creel is reached if immediately returned to the water unharmed.
- Separate stringers or buckets must be used for each angler's catch.
- On board containers in boats may contain only the combined daily creel limit for each legal angler on board.
- A fishing license does not authorize trespass on private property. Permission first must be obtained from the landowner.

It is Unlawful To:

- Fish within 100 feet (or as posted) of any fish ladder entrance or exit from March 1 through June 30.
- Spear fish in fresh waters. See exception for Delaware River, page 20.

2006 License Information & Fees

(Licenses are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year.)

Licenses

Resident Fishing (16 yrs. and over)	.....\$22.50
Senior Resident Fishing	
(Ages 65-69 yrs.; 70 & over—Free)	...\$12.50
Resident Trout Stamp	.....\$10.50
Non-resident Fishing	.....\$34
Non-resident Trout Stamp	.....\$20
Non-resident 2-Day Vacation Fishing	.....\$9
Non-resident 7-Day Vacation Fishing	.....\$19.50
All-Around Sportsman (includes resident fishing, firearm hunting and bow/arrow hunting licenses)	.....\$72.25

Permits

Available through the Lebanon Field Office	..... (908) 236-2118
Water Lowering, Fish Stocking, Baitfish Collecting, Triploid Grass Carp, Fish Tagging	.....\$2
Turtle & Frog Collecting, Eel Weirs	.....\$2
Scientific Collecting	.....\$22

Free Fishing Days

June 10 & 11, 2006

See page 43



Take a
Friend
Fishing!

- Possess or use any fishing contrivance with more than nine hooks or more than three burrs of three hooks. There is no limit to the number of rods used. See exception for Delaware River, page 20.
- Use set lines in waters inhabited by pickerel, walleye, bass or trout.
- Use cast nets in freshwater lakes or trout stocked waters. See baitfish regulations, page 19 for other exclusions.
- Foul hook largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, chain pickerel, northern pike, muskellunge, walleye, alewife and blueback herring (anadromous and landlocked), brook trout, brown trout, lake trout and rainbow trout or any of the hybrids thereof. Any of these listed fish so hooked must be immediately returned to the water. This does not apply to fish taken through the ice during the ice fishing season. Snagging of any species is prohibited in Monksville Reservoir and its tributaries, including the Wanaque River upstream of the reservoir.

Bow and Arrow Fishing

Any species of fish, *except* brook, brown, lake or rainbow trout, landlocked Atlantic salmon, largemouth or smallmouth bass, striped bass or any of its hybrids, pickerel, northern pike, walleye, muskellunge or any of its hybrids, may be taken at any time by use of a bow and arrow with line attached by the holder of a valid fishing license. See regulations for the Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, page 20.

Emergency Closures

It is illegal to fish or attempt to catch or kill fish by any manner or means in any waters for which the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, upon approval by the Fish and Game Council, issues an emergency closure notice. Such notification is effective and/or rescinded immediately upon public notification. Emergency closures shall be based upon imminent threat to the well-being of the fishery resources, and/or its users, and may include any exceptions to the total ban of fishing that the Director deems practical.

Ice Fishing

Permitted when ice is present, otherwise open water regulations are in effect. See separate regulations for trout-stocked waters and Greenwood Lake.

No more than five devices may be used for taking fish. The devices that may be used are:

1. Ice supported tip-ups or lines with one single pointed hook attached, or one burr of three hooks that measure not more than 1/2-

inch from point to shaft;

2. An artificial jigging lure with not more than one burr of three hooks that measure not more than 1/2-inch from point to point;

3. An artificial jigging lure with not more than three single hooks measuring not more than 1/2-inch from point to shaft;

4. An artificial jigging lure with a combination of the hook limitations described in 2 and 3 above.

Expressly prohibited are any devices with automatic hook setting capability. Natural bait may be used on the hooks of the artificial jigging lures. All devices that are not hand-held must bear the name and address of the user and cannot be left unattended.

Carp and suckers may be taken with net under the ice. Suckers may be taken through the ice by means of hooks, no more than three, directly attached to a rigid handle between December 1 and March 1.

Pollution, Draining Waters and Dams

It is unlawful to pollute waters of the state, directly or indirectly. It is illegal to draw down waters or place screens in water without permission from New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. It is illegal to construct a dam in any water which is a runway for migratory fish, without installing a fish ladder or other contrivance that permits fish to pass over the dam in either direction. Report pollution or other offenses to 877-WARNDEP or the Operation Game Thief Line (800) 222-0456.

Revocation

Anyone convicted of a second violation of fish or wildlife laws in this or another state within a period of five years will have his or her New Jersey licenses revoked for two years.

Sale of Fish

It is illegal to sell any freshwater fish species except under commercial permits as prescribed in the Fish and Game Code. It is illegal to sell striped bass. Artificially propagated trout, if properly tagged, may be sold for food purposes.

Stocking Fish

A permit is required to stock fish or fish eggs into any water which has an inlet or outlet. It is ILLEGAL to stock carp or koi into any such waters at any time. An application may be obtained by contacting the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118.


Striped Bass

Striped bass may be taken only by angling with a hook and line. See chart on page 18. It is illegal to possess any striped bass, or parts of a striped bass from which the head and/or tail has been removed (other than while in preparation or being served as food), which is less than the legal minimum size.

Tagging Fish

No person may tag or mark and then release a fish without first obtaining a special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife. Fish stocking permits will be accepted as an alternative to this permit. Contact the Lebanon Field Office at (908) 236-2118 for application information.

Waste of Fish

Fish of any species which are purposely killed become part of the angler's daily bag limit and must be removed from the waters from which they were taken, then either used or otherwise disposed of properly. 

Water Supply Reservoirs Open to Fishing By Permit Only

Note: Permits must be obtained from specific reservoir owner listed below. A valid fishing license is also required.

Waterbody	County	Type of Fishing	Fee	Permit Source
Newark's Pequannock Watershed Reservoirs: Echo Lake, Clinton, Oak Ridge & Canistear	Morris Passaic Sussex	Boat & Shoreline	Yes	Newark Watershed Conser. & Dev. Corp 223 Echo Lake Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435 (973) 697-2850 Permits available in person only Also available at: 40 Clinton Street, 4th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 622-4521 Permits available in person only
Point View Reservoir	Passaic	Shoreline only Sat. & Sun 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	No	Passaic Valley Water Commission 1525 Main Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07015 (973) 340-4309 Send stamped, self-addressed envelope. A daily permit will be mailed. Permit allows two people to fish
Oradell Reservoir Woodcliff Lake Lake Tappan Reservoir	Bergen Bergen Bergen	Shoreline only Shoreline only Shoreline only	Yes	United Water Company 200 Old Hook Road, Harrington Park, NJ 07640 (201) 767-9300 x3208

General Trout Fishing Regulations (For Brook, Brown & Rainbow Trout and Hybrids)			
SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	EXCEPTIONS
January 1—March 19	7 inches	4	1) Waters with in-season stocking closures are closed to fishing 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on days listed for stocking (see listing below). 2) Special regulation areas (wild trout streams, year round & seasonal trout conservation areas, trophy & holdover trout lakes). 3) Lake Hopatcong, Prospertown Lake, Farrington Lake, Lake Shenandoah—fishing is permitted during the period March 20 to April 8 at 8 a.m. All trout caught during this period must immediately be released. 4) Greenwood Lake & Delaware River—see separate regulations for Boundary Waters, p. 15.
March 20 to April 8 at 8 a.m.	Fishing prohibited on all waters listed for trout stocking; all other waters—catch and release only (See exceptions at right)		
April 8 at 8 a.m.—May 31	7 inches	6	
June 1—Dec. 31	7 inches	4	
Lake Trout Regulations			
SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	EXCEPTIONS
Jan. 1—Dec. 31	15 inches	2	Trophy Trout Lakes (see page 15)—Round Valley Reservoir, Merrill Creek Reservoir

Trout Stocked Waters

General trout regulations apply; see above. Consult pages 16 and 17 for a complete list of trout stocked waters that can be fished beginning 8 a.m., April 8, including the days the waters are stocked. See below for a list of waters closed to fishing (5 a.m. to 5 p.m.) on dates listed for stocking.

Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing (5 a.m. to 5 p.m.) on Spring Stocking Dates General trout regulations apply; see above. In addition, waters listed below are closed to fishing 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on dates listed for stocking, including all tributaries, for a distance of 100 ft. from the main channel. **There are no closures for fall stocking.**

MONDAYS April 10, 17, 24 May 1, 8, 15, 22	Manasquan River —Rt. 9 bridge downstream to Bennetts bridge, Manasquan WMA Metedeconk River, N/Br. —Aldrich Rd. bridge to Ridge Ave. Metedeconk River, S/Br. —Bennetts Mill dam to twin wooden foot bridge, opposite Lake Park Blvd. on South Lake Drive, Lakewood Rockaway River —Longwood Lake dam (Jefferson Twp.) to Jersey City Reservoir in Boonton Toms River —Rt. 528, Holmansville, to confluence with Maple Root Branch, and Rt. 70 bridge to Rt. 571 bridge (Exception: The section regulated as a Year-round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.) Wallkill River —Lake Mohawk dam to Rt. 23, Hamburg
TUESDAYS April 11, 18, 25 May 2, 9, 16, 23	Pohatcong Creek —Rt. 31 to Delaware River Raritan River, S/Br. —Budd Lake dam to junction with N/Br. Raritan River (Exception: The section regulated as a Year-Round Trout Conservation Areas; see separate regulation.)
WEDNESDAYS April 12, 19, 26 May 3, 10, 17, 24	Raritan River, N/Br. —Peapack Rd. bridge in Far Hills to junction with S/Br. Raritan River
THURSDAYS April 13, 20, 27 May 4, 11, 18, 25	Black River —Rt. 206, Chester to the posted Black River Fish & Game Club property at the lower end of Hacklebarney State Park Paulinskill River, and E/Br. and W/Br. —Limecrest RR spur bridge on E/Br., Sparta Twp., and Warbasse Jct. Rd. (Rt. 663) on W/Br, Lafayette Twp., to Columbia Lake (Exception: The section of the E/Br. regulated as a Year Round Trout Conservation Area; see separate regulation.) Ramapo River —State line to Pompton Lake (including Potash Lake)
FRIDAYS April 14, 21, 28 May 5, 12, 19, 26	Big Flat Brook —100 ft. above Steam Mill bridge on Crigger Rd. in Stokes State Forest to Delaware River Musconetcong River —Lake Hopatcong dam to Delaware River including all mainstream impoundments except for Lake Musconetcong (See Seasonal Trout Conservation Area regulations) Pequest River —source downstream to Delaware River (See Seasonal Trout Conservation Area regulations for Pequest) Wanaque River —Greenwood Lake dam to junction with Pequannock River, excluding Wanaque Reservoir, Monksville Reservoir and Lake Inez

Wild Trout Streams

SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	EXCEPTIONS
April 8 at 8 a.m.—Sept. 15	7 inches (see #3 at right)	2	1) Only artificial lures may be used. 2) Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3) The minimum size for brown trout in Van Campens Brook & Pequannock River is 12 inches.
Jan. 1 to April 8 at 8 a.m. & Sept. 16—Dec. 31	Catch & Release Only		
Bear Creek (Southtown) Bear Swamp Brook (Mahwah) Black Brook (Clinton WMA) Burnett Brook (Ralston) Cold Brook (Oldwick) Dark Moon Brook (also known as Bear Brook) (Johnsonburg) Dunnfield Creek (Del. Water Gap) Flanders Brook (Flanders) Hance's Brook (Penwell) Hickory Run (Califon) India Brook (source to Mountainside Ave., Mendham)	Indian Grove Brook (Bernardsville) Jackson Brook (source to Hedden Park Lake, Mine Hill Twp.) Ledgewood Brook (Ledgewood) Little York Brook (Little York) Lomerson Brook (also known as Herzog Brook) (Pottersville) Merrill Creek (Stewartsville) Mill Brook (Montague) N/Br. Rockaway Creek (Mountainville) Parker Brook (Stokes S.F.)	Passaic River (source to Rt. 202, Bernardsville) Pequannock River (Oak Ridge Rd. bridge in Newark Watershed, downstream to railroad bridge immediately upstream of Charlottesville Res.) Rhineharts Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.) Rocky Run (Clinton Twp.) Saddle River (state line to Lake St., Upper Saddle River) Stephensburg Creek (Stephensburg) Stony Brook (Stokes S.F.)	Stony Brook (Washington Twp., Morris Co.) Tetertown Brook (Tetertown) Trout Brook (Hacklebarney S.P.) Turkey Brook (Mt. Olive) Van Campens Brook (Delaware Water Gap Nat'l Recreation Area) West Brook (source downstream to Windbeam Club property) Whippany River (source to Tingley Rd., Mendham Twp.) Willoughby Brook (also known as Buffalo Hollow Brook) (Clinton Twp.)

Year Round Trout Conservation Areas

SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS (in effect year round)
Jan. 1—March 19	15 inches	1	1) Only artificial lures may be used. 2) Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3) Fishing is permitted during the in-season closures which apply to the river. All trout caught during these periods must be immediately released.
March 20 to April 8 at 8 a.m.	Catch & Release Only		
April 8 at 8 a.m.—Dec. 31	15 inches	1 (see #3 at right)	

Paulinskill River, E/Br. (Sussex County)—from the Limecrest railroad spur bridge downstream to its confluence with the W/Br. Paulinskill at Warbasse Jct. (approx. 2.25 miles)

Raritan River, S/Br. (Hunterdon County)—the stretch of water known as the Ken Lockwood Gorge, a distance of approximately 2.5 miles

Raritan River, S/Br. (Morris County)—a section of river, known locally as the Claremont Stretch, extending from the downstream end of the posted Anglers Anonymous property downstream to its junction with Electric Brook (approx. 1.1 miles)

Toms River (Ocean County)—the downstream end of Riverwood Pk. in Dover Twp., defined by markers, downstream to the Rt. 571 bridge (approx. 1 mile)

Seasonal Trout Conservation Areas

SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
January 1—March 19	15 inches	1	1) Only artificial lures may be used. 2) Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3) Pequest and Musconetcong Rivers—fishing is not permitted during the first six in-season stocking closure dates. (See Trout Stocked Waters Closed to Fishing on Spring Stocking Dates, p. 14). Fishing is permitted during the last in-season stocking closure date (May 26), but all trout caught between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. must immediately be released.
March 20—April 7	Catch & Release Only		
April 8 (12:01 a.m. to 8 a.m.)	Fishing Prohibited		
April 8 at 8 a.m.—May 21 Gear restrictions do not apply	7 inches	6	
May 22—Dec. 31	15 inches	1	

Pequannock River (Morris/Passaic counties) - Rt. 23 bridge at Smoke Rise downstream to the Rt. 23 bridge at Smith Mills (approx. 1.2 miles)

Pequest River (Warren County) - from the Conrail Railroad bridge located upstream of the Pequest Trout Hatchery Access Rd. downstream to Rt. 625 (Pequest Furnace Rd.) bridge, a distance of approx. 1.6 miles

Musconetcong River (Hunterdon/Warren counties) - Penwell Road bridge downstream to the Point Mtn. Road bridge, a distance of approx. 1.2 miles

Fly Fishing Areas

SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
January 1—March 19	7 inches	4	1) Only artificial flies are allowed, which are expressly limited to dry flies, wet flies, bucktails, nymphs and streamers. Expressly prohibited are metal, plastic, or wooden lures, plugs, spinners, and flies with spinners attached or any multiple-hooked device. Spinning reels or any type of angling whereby a fly is cast directly from the reel are expressly prohibited. 2) Possession or use of bait (live or preserved) or any substance (natural or synthetic) that contains a concentration of bait scent is prohibited. 3) After opening day and through May, fishing is prohibited from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on dates listed for stocking. (See Trout Water Closed to Fishing on Spring Stocking Dates, page 14.)
March 20 to April 8 at 8 a.m.	Fishing Prohibited		
April 8 at 8 a.m. to April 17 at 5 a.m. Gear restrictions do not apply except on Blewett Tract	7 inches	6	
April 17 at 5 a.m.—May 31	7 inches	6	
June 1—Dec. 31	7 inches	4	

Big Flat Brook (Sussex County)—Rt. 206 bridge downstream to the Roy Bridge on Mountain Rd., a distance of approx. 4 miles, except that portion known as the Blewett Tract

Blewett Tract (Sussex County)—a 0.5 mile portion on the **Big Flat Brook** clearly defined by markers, which extends from the Three Bridges Rd. to a point upstream of the jct. of the Big Flat Brook and Little Flat Brook.

Trophy Trout Lakes

LOCATIONS	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Merrill Creek Reservoir	brown & rainbow trout	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	15 inches	2
	lake trout	Jan. 1—Sept. 15 & Dec. 1—Dec. 31	15 inches	2
Round Valley Reservoir	brown & rainbow trout	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	15 inches	2
	lake trout	Jan. 1—Sept. 15 & Dec. 1—Dec. 31	20 inches	1

Holdover Trout Lakes

LOCATIONS	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Clinton Reservoir Lake Aeroflex Lake Wawayanda Shepherd Lake Swartswood Lake White Lake (Warren Co.)	brook, brown, rainbow trout, and hybrids (see separate regulations for lake trout)	Jan. 1—March 19	7 inches	2
		March 20 – April 8 at 8 a.m.	Catch & Release Only	
		April 8 at 8 a.m. – May 31	7 inches	4
		June 1—Dec. 31	7 inches	2
	landlocked Atlantic salmon	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	12 inches	2









Boundary Waters

LOCATIONS	SPECIES	SEASON	MIN. SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Delaware River	all trout species	April 15—Sept. 30 (trout caught at other times must be immediately released)	no min. size	5
Greenwood Lake	all trout species	Jan. 1—Dec. 31	no min. size	3

Warmwater & Coolwater




2006 REGULATIONS

Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from 12:01 a.m. March 21 to 8 a.m. April 8, 2006 because of trout stocking. Refer to pages 14-17 for complete lists and exceptions. **For Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, see Boundary Water regulations on page 20.**

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass				
 Largemouth Bass  Smallmouth Bass	Jan. 1—April 14	Statewide (exceptions below)	12"	5 combined
	April 15—June 15 Catch & Release Only (all waters)	Lunker Bass Lakes: Assunpink, Parvin, Delaware Lakes, Splitrock Reservoir, Boonton Reservoir	15"	3 combined
	June 16—Dec. 31	Conservation Regulations: Ryker Lake	15"	2 combined
Northern Pike, Tiger Musky, Muskellunge				
 Northern Pike  Muskellunge	Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions listed below)	24" Northern Pike	2
	March 20—May 20 Catch & Release only for Echo Lake Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Mountain Lake, Monksville Reservoir		30" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge	2 combined
		Trophy Musky Waters: Mountain & Echo Lake Reservoir	40" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge	1 combined
		Conservation Regulations: Lake Hopatcong, Monksville Reservoir, Mercer Lake Greenwood Lake	36" Tiger Musky & Muskellunge	
Chain Pickerel				
 Chain Pickerel	Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions below)	No minimum size	5
		Special Regulation: Lake Hopatcong, Swartswood Lake, Hammonton Lake	15"	
Walleye				
 Walleye	Jan. 1—Feb 28 March 1— April 30 Catch & Release Only May 1—Dec. 31	Statewide	18"	3
Striped Bass (freshwater only) Striped bass regulations are subject to change. Consult our Web site www.njfishandwildlife.com and the news media for updates.				
 Striped Bass	March 1—Dec. 31	Statewide	Greater or equal to 24" but less than 28"	1
			34" or greater	1
Hybrid Striped Bass (freshwater only) Striped bass regulations are subject to change. Consult our Web site www.njfishandwildlife.com and the news media for updates.				
 Hybrid Striped Bass	Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions below)	16"	2
	March 1—Dec. 31	Raritan River downstream of Duke Island Park dam	Greater or equal to 24" but less than 28"	1
			34" or greater	1

Warmwater & Coolwater

2006 REGULATIONS

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
American Shad				
 American Shad	Open Year Round	Statewide	No minimum size	6
Channel Catfish				
 Channel Catfish	Open Year Round	Statewide	12"	5
Crappie (Black and White)				
 Crappie	Open Year Round	Statewide	8"	10 combined
Other Species				
rock bass, white bass, white perch, yellow perch, sunfish, bullheads, white catfish, suckers, carp, bowfin, redbin pickerel	Open Year Round	Statewide (exceptions below)	no minimum size	25 combined
		Conservation Regulation Ryker Lake	Sunfish 7"	10 combined
			Yellow Perch no minimum size	10
		Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake (Salem Co.)	Sunfish 7"	10 combined
Freshwater Baitfish (See page 21 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)				
alewife (anadromous and land-locked forms), blueback herring, golden shiner, banded killifish, mummichog, spotfin killifish, rainwater killifish, American brook lamprey, fathead minnow, bluntnose minnow, stonecat, tadpole madtom, margined madtom, all shiners, daces, minnows and American eel	Open Year Round Exceptions: Baitfish may not be taken in trout stocked waters from March 20 to June 15.	Statewide	No minimum except 6" for American eel	35 combined

Annual Freshwater Fisheries Forums



Presented by NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife

1st Forum: Salem County Sportsmen's Club, Salem
Winter 2006—To be announced
9:30 a.m.

2nd Forum: Hackettstown Hatchery, Warren County
December 2, 2006
9:30 a.m.

Come and share your views and recommendations for the future of freshwater fisheries in New Jersey and learn about current research, management and fish culture activities!

The forum at Hackettstown will include a tour of the fish production facilities.

For more information or to pre-register (not required) please call (908) 236-2118 or send an e-mail to njfwfish@earthlink.net. E-mails should include name, address, phone number, and number of people attending.

KayakFishingStuff.com



The most complete kayak fishing shop in the world is right here in NJ. Saltwater or fresh. Let our experts set you up right. Sales, rentals, trips, repairs, outfitting, demo days & tournaments.

3 Iron Mountain Rd.—Mine Hill, NJ, 07803
(973) 659-1114

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities.

Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania

Angling may be done with no more than 2 rods, each with 1 line, or 2 handlines, or 1 of each. Not more than 3 single hooks or 3 hooks of 3 burrs each may be used per line. New Jersey or Pennsylvania fishing licenses are recognized from shoreline to shoreline. Anglers may launch a boat from either shore, and on return may have in possession any fish which may be legally taken according to the regulations of the state where the landing is made. Pennsylvania residents fishing from the New Jersey shore may have either a New Jersey nonresident license or a Pennsylvania resident license. There is a 6 fish daily creel limit on American shad. Pennsylvania also enforces an 8-inch minimum on American eel. Eels used as bait must be at least 6 inches in length and no greater than 8 inches.

Hook-and-line anglers are hereby restricted to the use of non-offset circle hooks while fishing with any natural bait during the months of April and May downstream of the Calhoun Street bridge to the Commodore Barry Bridge. This restriction shall apply only to hooks of size 2 and larger and shall not apply to hooks of smaller sizes (such as those normally used for white perch fishing).

Spears (not mechanically propelled) and bow and arrows may be used to take shad, eels, carp, suckers, herring and bullheads by properly licensed anglers except within 825 feet of an eel weir.

SPECIES	OPEN SEASONS	MINIMUM LENGTH	DAILY LIMIT
Trout	April 15–Sept. 30	no minimum	5
Walleye	no closed season	18"	3
Chain pickerel	no closed season	12"	5
Muskellunge & hybrids	no closed season	30"	2
Northern pike	no closed season	24"	2
Largemouth & Smallmouth bass	Jan. 1–April 14 and June 17–Dec. 31	12"	5 combined
Striped bass** & hybrids** upstream of Calhoun St. Bridge	April 15–June 16 March 1–Dec. 31	Greater than or equal to 24" but less than 28" AND 34" or greater	catch & release only 1
Striped bass** & hybrids** Downstream of Calhoun St. Bridge	March 1–31 & June 1–Dec. 31		AND 1
Shortnose sturgeon Atlantic sturgeon	illegal to take—endangered species illegal to take		
Alewife and Blueback herring (Anadromous and landlocked forms)	no closed season	no minimum	35 combined
American shad	no closed season	no minimum	6
Hickory shad	closed season	-	None
All other freshwater species	no closed season	no minimum	
Baitfish* (see Alewife & Blueback above)	no closed season	no minimum	50

*Baitfish may be taken and possessed for personal use and are not to be bartered or sold. The possession limit for baitfish in the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania is 50 per day. Alewife and blueback herring are regulated as food fish with a one-day possession limit of 35 in aggregate in the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania. It is unlawful to use a net of any kind between the hours of 2 p.m. Saturday and all through Sunday until 12 midnight. Eel weirs for catching carp, catfish, eels and suckers may be operated under a permit from NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife at any time of the year and any time of day. **Striped bass regulations are subject to change. Consult our Web site www.njfishandwildlife.com and the news media for updates.

Greenwood Lake

New York and New Jersey licenses are legal anywhere on the lake from a boat or on ice. Fishing is permitted 24 hours a day. Bow and arrow fishing for all carp, suckers, herring, catfish and eels is permitted. Ice fishers may not use more than 5 tip-ups and 2 hand-held devices. All ice fishing devices that are not hand held must be plainly marked with the name and address of the angler.

SPECIES	OPEN SEASONS	MINIMUM LENGTH	DAILY LIMIT
Trout	no closed season	none	3
Largemouth & smallmouth bass	Jan. 1–April 14 and June 16 to Dec. 31 April 15–June 15	12" catch & release only	5 combined catch & release only
Chain pickerel	no closed season	15"	5
Muskellunge & hybrids	no closed season	36"	1
Walleye	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 & May 1–Dec. 31	18"	3
Channel catfish	no closed season	12"	5
Black & white crappie	no closed season	8"	10 combined
Sunfish (bluegill, redbreast, pumpkinseed)	no closed season	none	50 combined
Yellow perch	no closed season	none	50
All other species	no closed season	none	none

2006 BAITFISH REGULATIONS

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities. **†Red** text in regulations indicates a change for this year. See separate regulations for Delaware River (p. 20). For marine waters, see Marine Issue of *NJ Fish & Wildlife Digest*.

The following are defined as baitfish by New Jersey Statute: alewife (anadromous and land-locked forms), blueback herring, golden shiner, banded killifish, mummichog, spotfin killifish, rainwater killifish, American brook lamprey, fathead minnow, bluntnose minnow, stonecat, tadpole madtom, margined madtom, all shiners, daces, minnows, chubs and the American eel. **†In the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania, alewife and blueback herring (anadromous and land-locked forms) are regulated as food fish with a one-day possession limit of 35 in aggregate. (See separate regulations for Boundary Waters, p. 20)**

Open Year Round Exception: season closed March 20 through June 15 on trout stocked waters and special regulation trout areas	statewide (freshwaters)	No minimum size except 6" for Am. eel	35 per day, species combined
---	-------------------------	--	---------------------------------

Notes: Any person with a valid fishing license (or those under 16 and those 70 years or older) may take baitfish in fresh waters. Possession limit is one day's limit, regardless of the intent to use these fish. Baitfish may be taken from the fresh waters of the state in numbers greater than 35 per day, in lakes over 250 acres, under a special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.

Gear	Gear Description
Seine	Not over 50 feet long in ponds & lakes over 100 acres; in all other waters not over 30 feet in length, or half the width of the stream at point of use, whichever is less. Exception: In trout-stocked waters and special regulation trout areas a seine may not be more than 10 feet in length and 4 feet in depth.
Minnow trap	Not larger than 24" in length with a funnel mouth no greater than 2" in diameter.
Umbrella net	No greater than 3.5 feet square.
Dip net	Not more than 24" in diameter; may be used only for alewife or blueback herring.
Cast net	No greater than 8 feet in diameter; may be used only in streams that are not trout-stocked or special regulation trout areas (may not be used in lakes).
Hook and line	Maximum of 9 single hooks or 3 hooks with 3 burrs per contrivance on all waters except the Delaware River where only 3 single hooks are permitted.

2006 TURTLE AND FROG REGULATIONS

Snapping turtle	January 1 through April 30 and June 16 through December 31	statewide	No min. size	3 per day
Bull frog and Green frog	January 1 through March 31 and July 1 through December 31	statewide	No min. size	15 per day combined

Means of Take

Any person with a valid fishing license or those entitled to fish without a license may take snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs by means of spears, hooks, dip nets not more than 24" in diameter, traps or by hand. Snapping turtles may not be taken with a gun or bow and arrow. Snapping turtles, bull frogs, and green frogs may be taken in numbers greater than the daily limit under a special permit issued by Fish and Wildlife at its discretion. Contact (908) 236-2118 for application information.

Display Your License!

Show your support of
Fish and Wildlife activities and programs . . .
Display your license!
It's the Law!!



MOTOR BOAT REGISTRATION

Motor Boat Title & Registration Requirement

Boats greater than 12 feet in length, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered at a NJ Motor Vehicle Commission office. Exceptions: ship's lifeboat, canoe, kayak, inflatable, surfboard, rowing scull, racing shell, tender/dinghy used for direct transportation between a vessel and shore for no other purposes.

For more information, visit the MVC Web site at www.nj.gov and go to the Motor Vehicle Commission link or stop by an MVC office or call (609) 292-6500.

A motorboat/Jet Ski operator license is required to operate these on fresh, non-tidal waters such as lakes, creeks and rivers for those 16 years or older. See the MVC Web site at www.nj.gov and go to the Motor Vehicle Commission link or call (888) 486-3339.

POLICE STATIONS

State Police Marine Law Enforcement Stations

Bivalve (856) 785-1330
North Wildwood . . . (609) 522-0393
Atlantic City (609) 441-3586
Burlington (609) 387-1221
Ocean (609) 296-5807
Point Pleasant (732) 899-5050
Monmouth Station . . (732) 842-5171
Lake Hopatcong . . . (973) 663-3400
Newark Bay (973) 578-8173

Fishing License Boundary Lines

2006 REGULATIONS

A fishing license is required to fish the fresh waters of the state. Locations listed below mark the change from salt water (license not required) to fresh water. A fishing license is required **at** and **upstream** of these locations.

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Absecon Creek–Dam at Lower Atlantic City Reservoir
Great Egg Harbor River–Power lines at confluence of Gravelly Run
Middle River–None–all saline water
Mullica River–Line between Seventh Ave., Sweetwater, and ramp at Crowleys Landing
Nacote Creek–Port Republic Dam
Patcong Creek–Bargaintown Lake Dam
South River–Power lines immediately below Route 50
Tuckahoe River–First northerly tributary downstream of Rt. 49 Bridge (McNeals Branch)

BERGEN COUNTY

Hackensack River–Cedar Lane Bridge between Hackensack and Teaneck
Hudson River–None–all saline water
Passaic River–Required whole length

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Assiscunk Creek–Required whole length
Bass River State–Fir Bridge on Stage Road in Bass River State Forest
Batsto River–Required whole length
Blacks Creek–Required whole length
Crosswicks Creek–Required whole length
Delaware River–Required whole length
Mullica River–Line between Seventh Ave., Sweetwater, and ramp at Crowleys Landing
Pennsauken Creek–Required whole length
Pompeston Creek–Required whole length
Rancocas Creek–Required whole length
Swedes Run–Required whole length
Wading River–Charcoal Landing, Chips Folly Campground

CAMDEN COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

CAPE MAY COUNTY

Bidwells Creek–None–all saline water
Cedar Swamp Creek–None–all saline water
Dennis Creek–None–all saline water
East Creek–100 ft. below East Creek Lake Dam, Eldora
Tuckahoe River–First northerly tributary downstream of lower Rt. 49 Bridge (McNeals Br.)
West Creek–100 feet below West Creek Lake dam (Pickle Factory Pond)

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Andrews Creek–None–all saline water
Back Creek–None–all saline water
Cedar Creek–100 ft. downstream of Cedar Lake dam
Cohansey River–Rt. 49 Bridge at Bridgeton
Dividing Creek–Route 555 bridge
Fishing Creek–None–all saline water
Fortescue Cr./Branch of Oranoken Cr.–None–all saline water
Manumuskin Creek–Required whole length
Maurice River–Mouth of Manumuskin Creek near Port Elizabeth
Menantico Creek–Required whole length
Mill Creek–Tributary of Cohansey–Route 553 bridge, Fairton
Muskee Creek–S. side of bridge on Weathersby Road
Nantuxent Creek (Pages Run)–Route 553 north of

Frames Corner
Oranoken Creek–Whitecar Mill, North of Beaver Dam
Oyster Creek–None–all saline water
Riggins Ditch–Route 47
Sow and Pigs Branch Nantuxent–None–all saline water
Stow Creek–Buckhorn Rd. Bridge, Jericho
Straight Creek–None–all saline water
West Creek–100 ft. below West Creek Lake dam (Pickle Factory Pond)

ESSEX COUNTY

Passaic River–Erie Railroad Bridge between Newark (at Verona Ave.) and Kearny
Peddie Ditch–None–all saline water

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Big Timber Creek–Required whole length
Delaware River–Commodore Barry Bridge at Bridgeport
Mantua Creek–Required whole length
Oldmans Creek–Route I-295 bridge
Raccoon Creek–Required whole length
Woodbury Creek–Required whole length

HUDSON COUNTY

Hackensack River–None–all saline water
Hudson River–None–all saline water
Passaic River–Railroad bridge between Newark (at Verona Ave.) and Kearny

HUNTERDON COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

MERCER COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Cheesequake Creek–Dam at Cheesequake Lake, Cheesequake State Park
Lawrence Brook–N.J. Turnpike bridge, East Brunswick
Raritan River–Landing Lane bridge, New Brunswick
South River–Route 527 bridge (New Brunswick Old Bridge Tpk.)
Woodbridge River–N.J. Turnpike bridge

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Black Creek–Spillway at Ocean Rd.
Branchport Creek–Mouth of Turtle Mill Brook
Deal Lake–Top of dam
Hockhockson (Pine) Brook–Garden State Parkway Northbound Bridge
Little Silver Creek–Little Silver Creek Brook
Manasquan River–Bennetts bridge, Manasquan Wildlife Management Area
Matawan Creek–Lefferts Lake dam
Oceanport Creek–Mouth of Husky Brook
Parkers Creek–Mouth of Parkers Creek Brook
Shark River–Remsen Mills Road
Swimming River–Swimming River Road bridge
Wreck Pond Creek–Rt. 71 bridge

MORRIS COUNTY

License required on all waters

OCEAN COUNTY

Beaver Dam Creek–Route 88
Cedar Creek–Route 9
Cedar Run–Route 9
Dinner Point Creek–None–all saline water

Double Creek–None–all saline water
Forked River–All branches Route 9
Gunning River–None–all saline water
Jakes Branch–Above Atlantic City Blvd.
Jeffreys Creek–Ocean Gate Road to Ocean Gate
Kettle Creek–Route 549
Lake of the Lilies–Entire lake
Long Swamp Creek–Washington Street Bridge, Toms River
Manahawkin Creek–Dams for Manahawkin W.M.A. impoundments beside
Metedeconk River–Rt. 70 Bridge, Laurelton
Mill Creek–Mouth of Creek at lagoons in Beach Haven West
Mill Creek–Pine Beach–Ocean Gate Road
Oyster Creek–Route 9
Parkers Run–None–all saline water
Potters Creek–None–all saline water
Stouts Creek–None–all saline water
Stouts Creek S. Br.–Bayside East Parkway
Toms River–Garden State Parkway, Northbound Bridge
Tuckerton Creek–Dam at Route 9
Waretown Creek–Route 9
West Creek–Route 9

PASSAIC COUNTY

License required on all waters

SALEM COUNTY

Alloway Creek–Route 540 bridge at Alloway
Black Ditch–None–all saline water
Delaware River–None–all saline water
Fishing Creek–None–all saline water
Hope Creek–None–all saline water
Mad Horse Creek–None–all saline water
Mill Creek–None–all saline water
Oldmans Creek–Route I-295 Southbound Bridge
Salem River–Dupont Dam near Cedar Crest Manor
Salem Canal–Dam at Deepwater
Stow Creek–Buckhorn Rd. Bridge, Jericho
Straight Ditch–None–all saline water

SOMERSET COUNTY

License required on all waters

SUSSEX COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

UNION COUNTY

Elizabeth River–West Grand St., Elizabeth
Great Ditch–None–all saline water
Morses Creek–Old Morses Mill Rd.
Oyster Creek–None–all saline water
Peddie Ditch–None–all saline water
Piles Creek–None–all saline water
Rahway River–Lawrence St. (Rt. 514), Rahway

WARREN COUNTY

License required on Delaware River and all other waters

IMPORTANT FOOTNOTES:

1. Absence of a river, creek, brook or other waterway from this list does not make it exempt from requiring a license to fish the fresh waters.
2. Names of waters conform to those given on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Topographic Series Maps.